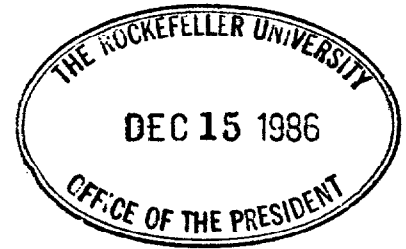




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The National Coalition to Protect Our Pets, Inc.

3123 Cahuenga Boulevard West, Los Angeles, California 90068 (213) 937-PETS



December 11, 1986

Joshua Lederberg, Ph.D.
President
The Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021

Michael A. Giannelli, Ph.D.
Director

CHARTER MEMBERS:

The American Anti-Vivisection Society
The American Humane Association
The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Animal Protection Institute of America
Fund for Animals
The Humane Society of the United States
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
The Michigan Humane Society
The National Anti-Vivisection Society
New England Anti-Vivisection Society

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

I very much appreciate your letter of November 24 which included a copy of your Washington Post article under discussion. I am cognizant of your busy schedule and thank you for taking the time to reply.

The principal thrust of your letter was your view that medical research with animals is of critical importance. This issue is obviously larger and ultimately more important than the pound animal question. Both of us understand, however, that the focus of my inquiry to you pertains specifically and exclusively to the use of random source pound animals, not to the global issue of animal research in general. The merit of pound animal use must be evaluated in its own light and cannot be principally justified by reference to the proclaimed benefits of laboratory animal use as a whole. In my judgment, to do otherwise is to commit what logicians call the "fallacy of division" in which it is incorrectly assumed that what is true of the whole must be true of all its parts.

The second thrust of your response was to differentiate between what you consider desirable from an ideal position from what you consider necessary from a pragmatic position. Specifically, you stated that, "If we were conducting the debate at the level of ideal preferences, I think I would stand by the propositions in my 1966 article...The proposal to forbid access to pound animals, at a time when there is no willingness to undertake the social and political costs of establishing the ranch breeding system is just to frustrate biomedical research without providing an alternative, albeit potentially superior, solution."

Respectfully, I find your position non-compelling. Your 1966 Post article clearly spelled out the scientific disadvantages of using random source pound animals and your recent letter to me cited no reasons why the logic of that previous statement ceases to apply today. If the ranch breeding system (your first preference) potentially provides a scientifically superior alternative to the continued dependence

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on random source animals, one might reasonably think that the animal research community itself would take the initiative in this direction. Unfortunately, in the U.S. at least, just the opposite has been and continues to be the case. Researchers and animal research interests vehemently defend their access to pounds and shelters. Indeed, it is fair to say that the U.S. research community as a whole is actively seeking to expand its claim to such animals. I see no evidence that they view the pet overpopulation tragedy as anything more than a convenient resource to capitalize upon, regardless of the negative impact this has on other sectors of society. Not only has the research community failed to take steps away from dependence upon unclaimed pound animals, their actions suggest that they are banking upon the tragedy persisting.

Under such circumstances, it is hardly surprising that there is a lack of political and social will to find alternative means of satisfying the needs of science. To suggest that such will must be present before researchers support a ranch breeding system is, in my mind, exactly backward. In other words, as long as the research community is permitted to distort the intended purpose of the shelter system by taking unclaimed animals for laboratory purposes, the scientists involved likely will never develop this willingness. On the other hand, if influential and distinguished scientists and academic leaders such as yourself took the initiative in this direction, the political willingness would surely follow. I have no doubt that the medical and scientific community would exercise political leverage to bring about a socially and scientifically superior method for laboratory animal acquisition. Unless and until the research community can reform itself in this regard, those of us seeking to change the policy have no alternative but attempting to force change from the outside in the face of resistance from your colleagues.

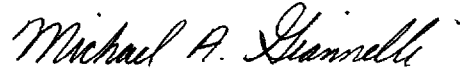
Ironically, although the use of random source pound animals is frequently defended from a deeper underlying motive to protect the general use of animals for scientific purposes, the net effect of the former is to diminish the security of and support for the latter. Considering the political climate of the times, protecting and advocating the continued use of random source pound animals makes it tougher for the research community to sell the public on the case for animal research in general. In my judgment, the aggressive defense of this policy will historically be looked upon as one of the major strategic blunders ever fostered by animal research scientists.

I sincerely hope that this will not mark the end of our communication and I will seriously evaluate any further thoughts which you may hopefully

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wish to share with me on this subject. May I close by wishing you
and yours a joyous holiday season.

Very cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael A. Giannelli".

Michael A. Giannelli, Ph.D.
Director

MAG:vlr